



COMMANDER NAVY REGION HAWAII

SAFETY NEWSLETTER

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www.hawaii.navy.mil/Safety/index.htm



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- Deposits on soil and water and harms animals and fish.

Children are at greatest risk

Although overall blood lead levels have decreased since 1976, infants and young children still have the highest blood lead levels. Children and others can be exposed to lead not only through the air, but also through accidentally or intentionally eating soil or paint chips, as well as food or water contaminated with lead.

High levels of lead are still of concern in localized areas

Urban areas with high levels of traffic, trash incinerators, or other industry, as well as areas near lead smelters, battery plants, or industrial facilities that burn fuel, may still have high lead levels in air. In 1999, ten areas of the country did not meet the national health-based air quality standards for lead.

LEAD: What is it? Where does it come from?

Lead is a metal found in the environment as well as in manufactured products. The major sources of lead emissions have historically been motor vehicles (such as cars and trucks) and industrial sources. Due to the phase out of leaded gasoline, metals processing is the major source of lead emissions to the air today. The highest levels of lead in air are generally found near lead smelters. Other stationary sources are waste incinerators, utilities, and lead-acid battery manufacturers.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1970 Lead Emissions Sources

221,000 tons



1997 Lead Emissions Sources

3,915 tons



Chief Causes for Concern

- Particularly affects young children and infants.
- Is still found at high levels in urban and industrial areas.

Did you know the following facts about lead?

FACT: Lead exposure can harm young children and babies even before they are born.

FACT: Even children who seem healthy can have high levels of lead in their bodies.

FACT: You can get lead in your body by



breathing or swallowing lead dust, or by eating soil or paint chips containing lead.

FACT: You have many options for reducing lead hazards. In most cases, lead-based paint that is in good condition is not a hazard.

FACT: Removing lead-based paint improperly can increase the danger to your family.



Sources of Indoor Air Pollution - Asbestos

Asbestos is a mineral fiber that has been used commonly in a variety of building construction materials for insulation and as a fire-retardant. EPA and CPSC have banned several asbestos products. Today, asbestos is most commonly found in older homes, in pipe and furnace insulation materials, asbestos shingles, millboard, textured paints and other coating materials, and floor tiles.

Elevated concentrations of airborne asbestos can occur after cutting, sanding or other remodeling activities disturb asbestos-containing materials. Improper attempts to remove these materials can release asbestos fibers into the air in homes, increasing asbestos levels and endangering people living in those homes.

Sources of Asbestos

Deteriorating, damaged or disturbed insulation, fireproofing, acoustical materials, and floor tiles.

Health Effects

No immediate symptoms, but long-term risk of chest and abdominal cancers and lung diseases. Smokers are at higher risk of developing asbestos-induced lung cancer.

The most dangerous asbestos fibers are too small to be visible. After they are inhaled, they can remain and accumulated in the lungs. Asbestos can cause lung cancer, mesothelioma (a cancer of the chest and abdominal linings) and asbestosis (irreversible lung scarring that can be fatal). Symptoms of these diseases were exposed to elevated concentrations on the job; some developed disease from exposure to clothing and equipment brought home from job sites.

Levels in Homes

Elevated can occur in homes where asbestos-containing materials are damaged or disturbed.

Steps to Reduce Exposure

- It is best to leave undamaged asbestos materials alone if it is not likely to be disturbed.

- Use trained and qualified contractors for control measures that may disturb asbestos and for cleanup.
- Follow proper procedures in replacing wood stove door gaskets that may contain asbestos.

If you think your home may have asbestos, don't panic!

Usually it is best to leave asbestos material that is in good condition alone. Generally, material in good condition will not release asbestos fiber. There is no danger unless fibers are released and inhaled into the lungs.

Do not cut, rip, or sand asbestos-containing materials.

Leave undamaged materials alone and, to the extent of possible, prevent them from being damaged, disturbed, or touched. Periodically inspect for damage or deterioration. Discard damaged or worn asbestos gloves, stovetop pads, or ironing board covers. Check with local health, environmental, or other appropriate officials to find out about proper handling and disposal procedures. If asbestos material is more than slightly damaged, or if you are going to make changes in your home that might disturb it, repair or removal by a professional is needed. Before you have your house remodeled, find out whether asbestos materials are present.

Be Safe!!

Friendly Training Reminders

(At Bldg. X-11 unless otherwise noted)

Fall Protection

3 Feb 0730-1100

INDOC

(PWC/PACDIV)

8 Feb - 0800-0930

LOTO

10 Feb 0715-1100

Respirator

PWC Bldg. 40

17 Feb 0730-0930

AAA DIP

NAVSTA Pearl Harbor

22 Feb - 0730-1600

AAA Offender

NAVSTA Pearl Harbor

23 Feb - 0700-1530

Motorcycle ERC

Ford Island

0739-1530